(123)

Charleston.

Jan 1. 1919

My Billy.

Your letter was a great delight. Please write again. I am sending this parcel on business & must make it as short as I can. I see that Lil & Budge would be just right. I want & am confident of closing them. Do if you can secure them for me. Would Lil come to me as cook - I would engage her now, to come either at once or later -. send E & I. packing - & get Mrs Hammond to keep temporary h.p. maid till I could get E Budge - You dont say what

I'll deal with extra pairs & letters when I write next

Dumesnil

(123) Charleston.

Jan 1. 1919

My Billy

Your letter was a great delight. Please write again. I am sending this parcel in business & must make it as short as I can. I see that Lil & Budge would be just what I want & am tempted & long them. Do if you can secure them for me. Would Lil come to me as cook - I would engage her now, to come either at once or later -. send E & I packing - & set Mrs Hammond to be temporary h-p-maid till I could get E Budge - You don't say what

sort of servant. Lil has
been before. But if she
kept teen nurse I would
rather have her as cook.
Then nurse (I think I
may secure a nurse elsewhere)
Or I would have her as
h.p. maid & Bridie as cook,
as the latter
would be able to cook much,
only very simple things
& I would teach them both.
I would give each
£35 a year wages - good
holidays. great liberty.
& they'd only be in the
country half the year
after this next autumn.
Please do all you can
to make it attractive -
I am sure Lil will already

have been snapped up
unless I'm quick. I wish
I needn't know you — but
as I can't do it for
myself will you send
her telegrams pay them
on my account as soon
as you can & let me
know. We can't con-
ceive the horrors of life
with E & J. They cheat
& lie & do nothing — I can't
get hot water & handle
food sent up decently.
If really do anything
to get decent servants
with some sort of
nice feeling. But Lottie
wouldn't do even if
she'd come back, as I
don't know what I'd

do write her my views at this distance from a doctor & I should want the service with her.

But it is very annoying of her to have prevented you from coming here. Perhaps you will bring the children back & stay a night or two.

I do hope the children are really no better. Give them my love & say the books they want shall be sent. Don't quite spoil them. They'll be much too happy with you even to want to return.

I'm getting on quite well thank you. My daughter has bitten me so fiercely, this time & sucked that she's sick me rather a bad time with sore nipples. Tiny mean

T. PARSONS 32-72

(124)

Charlton) 1919

Jan 2

My Billy.

You are too brilliant.
I really cant tell you how
thankful I am to you for
having secured Lily for me.
I have written to her to
ask her when she could
come & as soon as I
hear I shall send E & J
to engage Mrs Hammond
as temporary h.p. Do you
think I can rely upon
Betty Budge to come later?
Will you find out definitely
about her for me - I mean
she neednt say now exactly
when she will come as
long as she will come when
she can. Oh what a relief
it will be to get nice
people into the house again

Not that Jenny is so bad. She's really a very good worker & could soon become one & is quite worth knowing apart. But Emily demoralizes her. The time taken advantage at once. & my brain is tied to do exactly so badly that it's really past endurance.

However I must go into that now that I can look forward to getting rid of them. One great thing will be that it makes so much difference to the children having nice characters in the house & makes it possible for me to go away sometimes without feeling all will collapse at once -

Dear Billy. Perhaps you will get a kiss for keeping

. Such a helpful Ape.
I did enjoy your letter about my elder brood.
Do you really like them?
Do tell me what you think of their characters & minds. With you please tell Leonard that I am anxious to know if he thinks that they are too tiny for you - would write to him but I can't write to any but a favoured few (must try yourself & ?) yet but I really want to know
If they are you must set them taken off your hands by Mabel or Irene or Blanche & Jessie as much as possible
If Lil comes soon of course

I can have them back
quite easily.

Do you mean that Kaiser's legs have collapsed again? Brian writes more gloomily than ever, evidently finding his large female family almost too great a burden to be born. My father says, he almost certainly has ~~[illegible]~~ fleabitis if so what is there to look forward to but Death?

Do tell me if you know what has been happening to the "poor Vaughans"? What do you think of "Claudia"? She gets more attractive every day.

My V. B. latterly per D.G.

7 Jan. 1919

Tuesday

My Billy.

What an awful nuisance that you should have a headache again. I only hope you will get it right & run no risks. I'm very glad you don't think the children brought it on & that Leonard doesn't either for I should feel so guilty & the other hand if they were the cause they'd be an easily removable one.

But you know I have thought you much too thin for a long time & I'm sure it really is necessary for you to keep up to a certain weight. Moreover I want to see you in health

I find £2. 1-0 in the children's money box. I also owe J. 10/- & Q. 11/- & I'm sending a cheque for £3 2.0. Will you please change & give to them - I hope they won't squander it all too fast but can do as they like with it & I'm sending all the threepenny bits I can find if they want to.

7 Jan. 1919

Tuesday

My Billy.

What an awful nuisance that you should have a headache again. I only hope you will get it right & run no risks. I'm very glad you don't think the children brought it on & that Leonard doesn't either for I should feel so guilty on the other hand if they were the cause they'd be an easily removable nuisance.

But you know I have thought you much too thin for a long time & I'm sure it really is necessary for you to keep up to a certain weight. Moreover I want to lecture you on health

I find £2. 1-0 in the dustbin; money box. I also owed 10/- & Q.V.I. is sending a cheque for £3 2.0. Will you please change & give them - I hope they won't squander it all (125) for Lucy can do as they like & I'm sure Clarice will agree with me. I can't write to them if they want to.

at this moment.

Clive is going to Gordon Sq. on Saturday or Monday & is very anxious to see the children as he hasn't seen them here & won't for some time except in term time, when Mrs B. makes it impossible to see much of them - So he suggests that they might come on here on Saturday they can easily be housed here & Blanche will look after them & Clive will take them about with him - I think this would be better than his trying to see them at Hogarth - its such a long

way for him to go & he
can take them to the
movies etc much more
easily from Gordon Sq.
Besides I daresay you &
your servants will have
had quite enough of them
by then. They're evidently
being spoilt within an
inch of their lives.
If Leonard could get
into touch with Maynard
or Blanche he could
arrange about getting them
taken to Gordon Sq. Her
name is Blanche Payne.
Thanks to you I hope
soon to get my domestic
affairs in order. Lily will
come as you know & I

hope to hear soon about
Budge - Anyhow I am
keeping Johnny for the
present till I do hear, as
he's really quite different
from Emily & I think
wants to stay.
Please give the little boys
my love & tell them to
write to them soon & I think
they might write to me -
If they go to London Sq. they
can rout out a lot of old
toys & books for themselves
I am hoping to have them
back here again but I suppose
I must wait a little. My
daughter has been suffering from
indigestion but I hope is recovering
She's a most adorable & attractive
character I see & lovely to look at
Do take care of yourself. Yours V.B.

(126)

Charleston

1919

Jan 11

My Bley. You might not think it but I have hardly a moment of the day to myself in which to write letters. So don't expect much. I do hope you weren't worried about the children but there's no need to be. They seem to be perfectly happy at Gordon Sq. where they found lots of old toys etc. Blanche enjoys being there & Clive will be there soon to take them out if this rain ever stops. If you still want them I daresay they could come back to you for a day or two about Tuesday week when they'd otherwise be coming home. But that only if you want it & need not be settled now. If you don't mind enough or anyhow they can come straight back here. We can decide later. I see Roger has been making all kinds of arrangements for their & your & my benefit -

but really I think Gordon S.S. is much better than Dunkirk in this weather. & besides Clive does really want to have some time with them:

What a priceless letter from Aunt Annie. Please thank Leonard for sending me hers & Serrises. also for writing himself. I'm very grateful for any news of you.

I am living as usual at these times in a curious sub-world of sampian society. My samp is young. very very efficient much the best I've had as a samp. & really rather nice. I am surprised to find how open minded the modern young woman (even if a hospital nurse) is. She talks very openly on all subjects & would enjoy her talks & the patients. The rich old widow living at "Bohemia" Marlow. with Kidney disease

who called "Codee" instead of ringing a bell & when the servant tried to draw on the subject of her marriage night what she did & whether she wore curl-papers. & Sir Henry & Lady Chamberlain in Belgravia. Lady C. having been knocked down & run over by a motor bus. refusing to have her chemise cut open. or to wear her night gowns because they were too old. or to have her Aftex. and nine coiffure touched - or to be washed. & their amazing household ways. Keeping even from note paper to electric light switches locked up. The light thrown on the sordid ways of the rich is fascinating I only wish I could tell you about them.

Work keeping flooded out Is the deluge coming?

Then my doctor comes & spends hours talking. He's an odd man. His wife reads Eminent Victorians. He himself

enjoys paying afternoon calls on me & thinks me rather interesting & very unconventional because I told him I should vote Labour if I voted at all which I couldn't do.

At present Clive is my only other visitor. Duncan & Bunny with being away. Roger comes on Monday.

Suzanna - her latest name - do you like it? gets daily more lovable.

Billy will have to look out for himself in hell may be - what is it? 2nd - 3rd 4th or 5th?

She's coming now & very hungry so I must stop.

Yours
VB.

(127)

Charleston 1919

Feb. 13

My Billy.

Nelly will go back on Saturday, getting home somewhere about tea. time. It has been the greatest possible help having her in fact I really don't know how we should have managed without her. She has helped with the baby & the cooking & the housework & I am most grateful for the loan of her. Grace will arrive this evening I suppose. Please don't do anything more about servants for me. I hope to manage for myself now. Jenny has two

friends either of whom might possibly come. Failing them I am asking Kelly definitely to secure Annie Bois for me. & till she can come I shall either try to keep Crane or get Lily Boxall. So I hope at last to get settled. Also Miss Moralt thinks she can send me a very good nurse a trained children's hospital nurse who wants country air for some months & might come & give Susanna a real rest. She'd be expensive but I think it would be worth it for a time. Please let me

know what I owe you
for.
Children's expenses.
Servants "
It must be a great deal
by now. I hope you have
kept account of it all.
I feel very much
ashamed of my own in-
competence but it has
really been almost im-
possible to do anything for
myself all this time.
However if I get a good
nurse I shall be com-
paratively free again.
Susanna. (please tell
me what colour that
element is supposed to be,
is so lovely - I've really
never seen a more exquisite

creature - you simply must
come & see her soon. When
I have a nurse perhaps it
would be possible for you
to come for 2 or 3 days?
Send me oceans of gossip.
I have only time now for
this business scrap but
I'll write again. Being nurse
means constant attention
to detail at which I'm so
bad that I have to exert
all my energies to get it
done adequately.
I'm afraid I did tell Nelly
about Asheham, but she'd
already heard from Mrs Senn
she said & thought you
didn't know. It's too awful
what shall you do? You
might find something nearer
here. I've taken Alix's flat in
Regent's for a year from March.
Yours V.B

T. PARSONS 3.2.73